



Source: NH Journal



NH Houses of Worship

Emergency Preparedness: A Community Approach

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Where Do We Start?



- **Recognize and respond to what is happening worldwide.**
- **Fully commit to the Emergency Preparedness (EP) needs of your house of worship.**
- **Utilize a “whole community approach” to safety (utilize subject matter experts).**

Where Are We Vulnerable?



Think with an “All-Hazards” Approach

- Medical Emergencies
- Cyber Security (D.O.D., fishing attacks, etc.)
- Social Media Vulnerabilities
- Vandalism / Theft
- Loss of Personally Identifiable Information
- Abuse of the Vulnerable (children, elderly)
- Fire
- Active Threat (intent to injure or kill)
- Suspicious Packages / Bomb Threats

How Do We Tackle So Many Dangers?



Severity >>>

Frequency >>>

High Frequency Low Severity	High Frequency High Severity
Low Frequency Low Severity	Low Frequency High Severity

What Tools are Available?



- **HSEM's House of Worship EP Checklist**
- **HSEM's Self-Assessment Form**
- **HSEM's Resource Center**
https://prd.blogs.nh.gov/dos/hsem/?page_id=5994
- **DHS' Links, Templates, Documents**
- **Insurance Companies' Resources**
- **Local Fire and Police Personnel (historical and geographic knowledge)**

Who Are My Partners?



- **Your Local Fire and Police Departments**
- **Your Town's Emergency Management Director (EMD)**
- **Other Local Houses of Worship**
- **NH Homeland Security and Emergency Management (HSEM)**
- **U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS)**
- **U.S. Attorney's Office / County Attorney's Office**

Let's Get a Team Focused on This...



- **Discuss an approach strategy with your leadership...get buy-in.**
- **Talk about intentions with your congregation...build more buy-in.**
- **Pull a team together...utilize buy-in.**
- **Tackle “low hanging fruit” first, then bigger goals...maximize buy-in.**

Teach, Train, Exercise...Repeat



- **TEACH** an all-hazards approach to EP.
- **TRAIN ALL** staff (paid and volunteer).
- **EXERCISE** your plans (Workshop, TTX, Functional).
- **REPEAT** (repetition builds capacity, turnover depletes capacity).

Some EP Core Capabilities We Should Build



- **Planning**
- **Situational Awareness**
- **Threat / Hazard Identification**
- **Communication and Coordination**
- **Public Information (internal and external)**

What is an Emergency Operations Plan (EOP)?



- **An emergency preparedness guidance document uniquely built and applied to your organization.**
- **It drives your EP training, budget, exercises and responses.**
- **Needs broad buy-in for both assembly and application.**
- **Needs to be updated regularly.**

What Next Steps Should We Take?



- 1. Have open discussions with your insurance company.**
- 2. Invite fire and police to your facility.**
- 3. Connect regularly with local houses of worship; compare notes and resources.**
- 4. Get going on the items we discussed today.**
- 5. Attend full-day EP workshops with your team (HSEM, DHS, US Atty. Office).**
- 6. Attend exercises (tabletop and functional) (HSEM, DHS, US Atty. Office).**

How Can We Help You?



You have a committed community of EP professionals at the local, state and federal levels ready to help.

Questions? / Comments?